

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00806 071131Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
OMB-01 IO-13 /077 W
-----071458Z 054315 /44
R 071050Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6837
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 0806

BANGKOK FOR AMBASSADOR REED

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE
SUBJECT: J.R. RULES OUT READMITTANCE OF PARTY DISSENTERS

1. SUMMARY. UNITED NATIONAL PARTY LEADER J.R. JAYEWARDENE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT RUKMAN SENANAYAKE, EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY LAST YEAR, WILL NOT BE READMITTED TO THE UNP. THE APPARENTLY UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT COMES IN THE WAKE OF WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT RUKMAN AND FELLOW DISSENTERS HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH J.R. TO RE-ENTER THE UNP AND CONTEST SEVERAL SEATS AT THE ELECTION. THE UNP'S WILLINGNESS TO WRITE OFF RUKMAN AND HIS "DUDLEY FRONT" IS A RECONGNITION OF THE FRONT'S INABILITY OVER THE PAST YEAR TO BUKLD ITS PARTY INTO A CREDIBLE CONTENDER FOR THE ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. WHEN RUKMAN SENANAYAKE, M.P., WAS OUSTED FROM THE UNITED NATIONAL PARTY IN APRIL, 1976 FOR DISLOYALTY, HE AND SEVERAL OTHER DISSENTERS FORMED THE DUDLEY FRONT, NAMED AFTER RUKMAN'S UNCLE, THE LATE EX-PM DUDLEY SENANAYAKE, SINCE THEN THE FRONT HAS FAILED TO PICK UP ANY NOTABLE OUTSIDE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 00806 071131Z

SUPPORT ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN LAVISHED WITH PUBLICITY BY THE SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) PRESS, ANXIOUS TO PLAY UP DISSENSION WITHIN THE OPPOSITION, LATELY WE HAD BEEN HEARING RUMORS FROM UNP CIRCLES THAT A RECONCILIATION HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN RUKMAN AND THE UNP LEADERSHIP. SUPPOSEDLY RUKMAN AND ONE OTHER DUDLEY FRONT MEMBER WOULD BE GIVEN UNP NOMINATIONS AT THE UPCOMING

ELECTION. RUKMAN HIMSELF REPORTEDLY MADE A SIMILAR STATEMENT TO HIS FOLLOWERS FEBRUARY 20.

3. APPARENTLY TO QUELL THESE RUMORS AND TO AVOID UNDERCUTTING THE ALREADY-APPOINTED UNP CANDIDATE IN RUKMAN'S HOME CONSTITUENCY, UNP LEADER J.R. JAYEWARDENE WROTE AND HAD PUBLISHED MARCH 4 A LETTER TO A PARTY SUPPORTER TO THE EFFECT THAT RUKMAN WOULD NOT BE READMITTED. IN A SEMMINGLY UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT, J.R. SAID THAT NEITHER THE PARTY "NOR I PERSONALLY HAVE ANY INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO READMIT (SIC) A PERSON SACKED FROM THE PARTY FOR INDULGING IN TREACHEROUS ACTS AGAINST IT, WHETHER IT BE MR. RUKMAN SENANAYAKE FOR ANYONE."

3. COMMENT: THE UNP HAS ALREADY APPOINTED A STRONG CANDIDATE (WHO HOLDS THE PRESTIGIOUS LAY BUDDHIST OFFICE OF CUSTODIAN OF THE TOOTH RELIC) TO CONTEST RUKMAN SENANAYAKE'S HOME CONSTITUENCY OF DEDIGAMA, LONG HIS FAMILY'S FIEF. WITH RUMAN IN THE RACE AS AN INDEPENDENT (SINCE THE DUDLEY FRONT WILL NOT QUALIFY AS A RECOGNIZED PARTY), THE ELECTION FOR THAT SEAT COULD BE A TOSS-UP WITH THE SLFP CANDIDATE PERHAPS BENEFITTING. HOWEVER, IN NO OTHER AREA DOES IT NOW APPEAR THAT THE BUDLEY FRONT CANDIDATES WILL BE SERIOUS FACTORS IN THE ELECTION. IT IS IN RECOGNITION OF THAT FACT THAT J.R. HAS BEEN ABLE TO TAKE A TOUGH LINE AND RULE OUT ANY REAPPROCHEMENT.
PERKINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COLOMB00806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770077-1014
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770387/aaaacytq.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e75a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3190187
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: J.R. RULES OUT READMITTANCE OF PARTY DISSENTERS
TAGS: PINT, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e75a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009